

2009 began devising a way to rebuild and protect our coastline. Shaffer, a biology professor at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA, and Kandlepas, an ecologist with a doctorate degree, have been growing hurricane-resistant plants, such as cypress and tupelo trees, along Louisiana's receding coast. This creates a natural barrier of healthy flora more likely to sustain vulnerable coastal habitats during strong storms. In order to reinvigorate the vegetation along Louisiana's coastline, Wetland Resources targets areas that are filled with treated sewerage and wastewater from nearby cities. These areas are nutrient rich and serve as ideal incubators for newly planted cypress and tupelo trees. These species of trees can live for hundreds of years, and their root systems grow laterally, which connect with adjacent trees to create an effective barrier from storm surges and gale force winds.

Today, Shaffer and Kandlepas are developing new ways to plant and protect their seeds. In addition to their most recent development, a biodegradable protective casing for their seedlings that allows 4,000 trees to be planted each day, Wetland Resources, LLC, has received numerous awards.

Congratulations to Wetlands Resources, LLC, of Tickfaw, LA, this week's Small Business of the Week. I look forward to seeing the ongoing impact of your innovative ideas in restoring our coastline and protecting our families and homes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1090. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3654. An act to require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3750. An act to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster.

H.R. 3878. An act to enhance cybersecurity information sharing and coordination at ports in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4239. An act to require intelligence community reporting on foreign fighter flows to and from terrorist safe havens abroad, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4246. An act to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 2297) to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes, and agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2820) to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1090. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2297. An act to prevent Hizballah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2820. An act to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3831. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the annual comment period for payment rates under Medicare Advantage.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3189. An act to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish requirements for policy rules and blackout periods of the Federal Open Market Committee, to establish requirements for certain activities of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3654. An act to require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3750. An act to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3878. An act to enhance cybersecurity information sharing and coordination at ports in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4239. An act to require intelligence community reporting on foreign fighter flows to and from terrorist safe havens abroad, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 17, 2015, she

had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1090. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2410. A bill to promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2411. A bill to permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to search open source information to determine if an alien is inadmissible to the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2412. A bill to establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2413. A bill to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices relating to the prices of products and services sold online, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2414. A bill to decrease the frequency of sports blackouts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2415. A bill to implement integrity measures to strengthen the EB-5 Regional Center Program in order to promote and reform foreign capital investment and job creation in American communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2416. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require the use of electronic visit verification systems for home health services under the Medicare program and personal care services and home health care services under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2417. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow the Indian Health Service to cover the cost of a copayment of an Indian or Alaska Native veteran receiving medical care or services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2418. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering online recruitment of violent extremists; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2419. A bill to improve quality and accountability for educator preparation programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2420. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2421. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 337. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 12, 2016, as "Darwin Day" and recognizing the importance of science in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 50

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 551

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 551, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 706

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response.

S. 779

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 779, a bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small businesses.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1455

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1455, a bill to provide access to medication-assisted therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1697

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to provide an exception from certain group health plan requirements to allow small businesses to use pre-tax dollars to assist employees in the purchase of policies in the individual health insurance market, and for other purposes.

S. 1849

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1849, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to

the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

S. 2200

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2200, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to promote international trade, and for other purposes.

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2291, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish procedures within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the processing of whistleblower complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2407, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional